(c) whether assistance of any external agency has been sought for eradication of polio; and

(d) what other steps are being taken to reach every pocket in States to eradicate polio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The Government has accepted WHO's global programme for achieving zero incidence of Polio by the winter of 2000-2001.

(c) Routine immunization is being funded from the domestic budget. The cost of the Pulse Polio Immunisation is met out of assistance from the external donor agencies and IDA assistance from the World Bank.

(d) In addition to administration of polio vaccination to children as a part of the Routine Immunization Programme, Government is conducting the intensified Pulse Polio Programme all over the country to cover all children below 5 years of age. The strategy for the current year i.e. 2000-2001 is to conduct two National Immunization Days (NIDs) in the entire country in December, 2000 and January, 2001. The NIDs will be preceded by two Sub National Immunization Days (SNIDs) — one in November, 2000 covering the States of Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and another in the month of September, 2000 in the 4 States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Delhi. The strategy also calls for an intensified house to house search and vaccination of missed children following the day of booth immunization in all the States conducting SNIDs. In the States reporting only one or two polio cases, intensified mop up vaccination programme is being taken up during the current year.

Arbitrary Procurement of Medicines

3454. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arbitrary procurement of medicines, without ascertaining the requirement from the user dispensaries by the Addl. Director, Central Government Health Scheme and Government Medical Store Department, resulted in expiry of medicines to the tune of Rs. 0.5 crores; and

(b) if so, what are Government's views on this wastage that has occurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir. As per para 11.2 of C&AG's Report No. 2 of 2000 (Civil) for the year ending 31.3.1999 available in the Statement (*See* below), the loss on account of expired medicines at CGHS, Pune was to the tune of Rs. 48.40 lakhs.

(b) The Government have taken a serious view and therefore, a High Powered Committee was constituted to enquire into the matter. The Committee has already submitted its Report for taking necessary action.

Statement

11.2 Loss on account of expired medicines

Arbitrary procurement of medicines without ascertaining the requirement from the user dispensaries by Additional Director, CGHS, Pune resulted in life expiry of medicines worth Rs. 48.40 lakh.

Additional Director CGHS[1] Pune is required to purchase medicines for the seven CGHS dispensaries in Pune by placing an indent on GMSD[2] Mumbai. The quantity of medicines for purchase from GMSD is to be worked out on the basis of requirement projected by the seven CGHS dispensaries.

The Joint Director CGHS, Pune, who was holding the charge of the Additional Director during April, 1996 to December, 1997 procured medicines worth Rs. 73.47 lakh and Rs. 1.53 crore during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively from GMSD, Mumbai without ascertaining the requirement from the user dispensaries.

Examination of stock of imedicines disclosed that out of the medicines procured during 1996-98, 35 items valued at Rs. 48.40 lakh became time expired as of June 1999. Of these, 20 items valued at Rs. 40.41 lakh were purchased without even there being any demand from the user dispensaries Besides, the Additional Director CGHS Pune had to divert medicines valued at Rs. 14.51 lakh to CGHS dispensaries at other locations and a Government Hospital to avoid their time expiry.

Since arbitrary indent by the Joint Director, CGHS resulted in a loss of Rs. 48.40 lakh on the expired medicines, it calls for an investigation to fix responsibility.

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[1] Central Government Health Scheme
[2] Government Medical Stores Depot

The matter was referred to the Ministry in November, 1999, their reply was awaited as of January, 2000.

National Malaria Eradication Programme

3455. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Malaria Eradication Programme failed to make a significant dent on the incidence of malaria; and

(b) if so, the number of deaths due to malaria in 1996, 1997 and 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir. With the launching of Modified Plan of Operation (MPO) for control of malaria since April, 1997, the incidence of the disease was brought down to 2.18 million cases in 1984 against 6.47 million cases recorded in 1976. Since then, the incidence of malaria has been contained between 2-3 million cases annually. There has been a declining trend in incidence of malaria since 1997.

(b) The number of reported deaths due to malaria during 1996, 1997 and 1999 are as under:—

Year	No. of Deaths
1996	1010
1997	879
1999 (Provisional)	1060

Mysterious Disease in Mumbai

3456. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the first two weeks of July, 2000, Mumbai and surrounding areas suffered loss of many human lives due to some unknown disease;

(b) if so, what was the disease; how many lives were lost; and

(c) what remedial action has been taken by the Central Government?